



Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog

By Ted Kerasote

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This national bestseller explores the relationship between humans and dogs. How would dogs live if they were free? Would they stay with their human friends?

Merle and Ted found each other in the Utah desert— Merle was living wild and Ted was looking for a pup to keep him company. As their bond grew, Ted taught Merle how to live around wildlife, and Merle taught Ted about the benefits of letting a dog make his own decisions.

Using the latest in wolf research and exploring issues of animal consciousness and leadership and the origins of the human-dog relationship, Ted Kerasote takes us on the journey he and Merle shared. As much a love story as a story of independence and partnership, *Merle's Door* is tender, funny, and ultimately illuminating.

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Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog By Ted Kerasote Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Humorous, jubilant and touching by turns, this story of the relationship between man and dog is informed by the author's grasp of animal research and his attachment to Merle, a stray dog he adopted. A Labrador mix, Merle first appeared while the author was on a camping trip. Kerasote (*Out There: In the Wild in a Wired Age*), an award-winning nature writer, decided to take his canine friend home to rural Wyoming. This chronicle of their 13 years together is interspersed with studies by animal behaviorists that strengthened Kerasote's desire to see Merle as a responsible individual rather than a submissive pet. Merle set his own eating schedule (though not without early mishap), refused to hunt birds (although not elks) and, according to the author, possessed a range of emotions and sentiments similar to those of humans. Kerasote tends to anthropomorphize Merle's every look and movement, but this narrative is entertaining and Kerasote's strong love for Merle and enthusiasm for life in the wild will win over many readers. Kerasote's joyous relationship with Merle is balanced by a bittersweet account of a close relationship the author had with Alison, a neighbor and fellow dog owner. Kerasote's last weeks with the dying Merle are beautifully rendered. (*July*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Merle showed up at the San Juan River at the same time Kerasote and his river-rafting friends arrived. Merle looked at Kerasote as if to say, "You need a dog, and I'm it." He accompanied the group down the river and then went home to Wyoming with Kerasote. A dog who was eager to please and almost trained himself, Merle learned the ways of bison, ground squirrels, and coyotes. Merle then taught Kerasote the fullness of the hunt, leading Kerasote to his favorite prey. But, after Kerasote installed a dog door, the main thing Merle taught him is that a dog develops to his full potential, becoming the dog he was meant to be, when allowed to make his own decisions. Merle developed a life of his own, patrolling the small settlement where they lived with his dog companions, and yet was always very aware of Kerasote and his schedule. In telling Merle's story, Kerasote also explores the science behind canine behavior and evolution, weaving in research on the human-canine bond and musing on the way dogs see the world. Merle is a true character, yet Merle is also Everydog. An absolute treasure of a book. Bent, Nancy

Review

PRAISE FOR *MERLE'S DOOR*

"Charming."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"This summer's *Marley*."—*People*

"Anyone who ever loved a dog will find something to enjoy in *Merle's Door*."—*The Christian Science Monitor*

"*Merle's Door* is a window into the mind of a dog. You will experience his loyalty, fears, and joys and his true inner self. Everybody who loves dogs must read this book."—Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation*

“A truly wonderful book—iconoclastic, mind-blowing, and gorgeously written.” —Delia Ephron, author of *Hanging Up* and *Frannie in Pieces*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dennis Simpson:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this specific Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog book as beginner and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Daphne Shew:

This Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog is completely new way for you who has interest to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little digest in reading this Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog can be the light food for you personally because the information inside that book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in book form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is not any in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

Lorraine Woodward:

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Michelle Jarvis:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got learners? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person such as reading or as reading through become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to incorporate you

knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update in relation to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is actually Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog.

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